



New Mexico National Guard

Conception to Now

AGS Veterans Book - *Special Pre-Release Ceremony*

Sunday, March 12, 2023

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

NM Veteran's Memorial Park

Conference Room (Visitor's Center), 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM

AGS Military Heritage -

Service to our Country by Members, Ancestors, Family

Compiled and Edited by Patricia T. Eker

The 3rd book in the AGS 50th Anniversary Series is about to be released. We would like to thank and recognize AGS members who are veterans and contributors that are included in this book. Many of you are still members of AGS and we would like to invite you to this special ceremony and present you with a copy of the book.

We sincerely thank you for your service and for your contribution(s) to the original “AGS Veterans Honor Roll: A Salute for our Veterans” series in the AGS Quarterly! We hope you can attend.

Last Month's Program:
Bill Overmier - Bataan NM Guard POW Survivor's Story

AGS Military Research Program Presented by Cynthia Vaughan
<https://archive.org/details/gmt-20230207-175952-recording-1920x-900>

An Interview with William Overmeir (Approximately 25 minutes)
<https://archive.org/details/WorldWar2PowWilliamOvermier>

Early New Mexico

1598-1846 Militia Organization with each colony/settlement led by Maese or Maestre de Campo ("field marshal") Governor would order a call to arms and localities would provide citizen-solders they could muster.

1846 - The first Territorial Militia was provided for by a system of laws devised by Kearny, commonly known as the Kearny Code (Missouri Law). Then in 1851 the first territorial Legislature created the office of Adjutant General and placed the territorial Militia under its jurisdiction. (Wikipedia)

1862 - The Territorial Militia, also known as the New Mexico Volunteers, played a decisive role in the defeat of Confederate forces in the Battle of Glorieta. During 1863 and 1864, the Militia was also active in Navajo and other Indian campaigns of the period.

Early New Mexico

1898 - The war with Spain called for the organization of volunteer forces, which achieved fame as Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders." Many New Mexico Guardsmen helped form the 2nd Squadron, 1st United States Cavalry, which served with Roosevelt at the legendary charge of San Juan Hill.

1916 - Units of the New Mexico National Guard were again placed in active service on the Mexican border to pursue Pancho Villa after Mexican forces raided Columbus, New Mexico. They would spend a year at the border.

WW1 to WW2

World War 1, the First Regiment of Infantry was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division in France. A Battery of Field Artillery was assigned to the 41st Division and became part of the 146th Field Artillery Regiment. This unit took part in the actions at Champagne-Marne, Alsne-Marne, and Meuse-Argonne.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th Infantry Division \(United States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th_Infantry_Division_(United_States)))

1921- Reorganization. Units were reassigned to the 111th Cavalry Regiment, the 120th Engineers, and Battery A, 158th Field Artillery.

1940 – Reorganization, the 111th Cavalry Regiment became the 200th Coast Artillery, the 158th became the 104th Anti-Tank Battalion. The 200th, 104th, and the 120th would be called up for active duty for a 1 year training period.

World War 2

August, 1941 – 200th Coast Artillery called up and sent to the Philippines.
December 8th, 1941, 200th went on full alert after listening to commercial broadcasts of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

900 out of the 1800 New Mexicans assigned to the Philippines would survive the Bataan Death March and the 40 month POW incarceration. These proud men brought home three distinguished unit citations and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

The 120th Engineers were called up September 16, 1940, and moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for intense training. They would be attached to the 45th Division and serve in Sicily, Italy, Southern France, and the Rhineland.

World War 2

The 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion (formally the 104th Anti-Tank Battalion), would be assigned to the 34th “Red Bull” Division.

The Battalion would earn eight Silver Stars, three Legions of Merit, sixty Bronze Stars while serving in Italy and Southern France.

135 soldiers would earn the Purple Heart, with 30 given posthumously.

Post WW2

1947- US Government reorganized the NM Guard with five separate Anti-Aircraft Battalions, one Operations Detachment, two Signal Radar Units, one Engineer Searchlight Maintenance Unit, three Ordnance Companies, one Transportation Truck Company and one Army Band. Also a Fighter-Bomber Squadron for its Air National Guard. No deployments through 1950.

Korea and Vietnam

The US Government activated the 716th AAA Gun Battalion along with the 726th and 394th Signal Radar Maintenance Unit. The 188th was also activated during the conflict. New Mexico units furnished individual members as replacements to units engaged in active combat. No entire unit saw action in the hills of Korea.

The Berlin crisis in 1961 saw the 394th Signal Detachment called up and sent to Pennsylvania and the 188th Fighter Interceptor squadron went on 24-hour defense alert at Kirtland AFB.

Vietnam would see an increase in NM Guard manpower, but no activation. Many Guardmen did volunteer for duty in Vietnam. The Air National Guard would see the 150th split between Vietnam, South Korea, Japan and Stateside. By 1969, the unit would be deactivated and return to NM.

1960s through the 1980s

The NM Army National Guard would assist local and State officials following the raid on the Rio Arriba Courthouse in Tierra Amarilla in 1967.

1970 would see the NM Army National Guard called up for unrest on the UNM campus. It resulted in 11 bayonet stabbings and the Guard was withdrawn from campus.

1980 – The NM Army National Guard would be activated to assist law enforcement during the 36 hour NM State Penitentiary riots.

1980 - 150th Tactical Fighter Group won the Winston P. Wilson Trophy for being the best Fighter Unit in the Air National Guard.

1980s through 1990s

1983-1989 – The NM National Guard would begin a modernization program to gain high technology type units. A Hawk Missile Battalion would be assigned to Rio Rancho. Conversion from the Duster M42 Anti-Aircraft unit to the newer Chaparral Short Range Missile System was completed during this time.

1990s - 720th Heavy Truck Transportation Company, Las Vegas, 812th Medical Detachment, Santa Fe, 150th Security Police flight, Albuquerque, and the Air Defense Training Activity, Ft. Bliss, Texas would be activated for Operation Desert Storm (IRAQ). The 150th Air National Guard would be converting to the F-16 in 1992.

Currently

NM National Guard consists of:

1st and 2nd Battalions,
200th Infantry Regiment,
the 93rd Troop Command,
44th Army Band,
the 111th Sustainment Brigade,
and the 717th Brigade Support Battalion.

The major unit of the New Mexico Air National Guard is the 150th Special Operations Wing.

Memorials

In New Mexico: KRQE has an interactive map of memorial locations around the State.

<https://www.krqe.com/interactives/map-new-mexico-veterans-monuments-and-memorials/>

American Battle Monuments Commission

<https://www.abmc.gov>

Veteran's Administration (National Cemetery)

<https://www.cem.va.gov/>

US Army Cemeteries

<https://armycemeteries.army.mil/Cemeteries>

Other Resources

Albuquerque Library: <https://abqlibrary.org/home> (Search NM Nat. Guard)

WorldCat: <https://worldcat.org/> (Search on New Mexico National Guard)

Fold3: <https://fold3.com> (Look for Unit Histories, i.e. 45th Division)

Links: Look for military units.

WW2 Tank Destroyer - <https://www.tankdestroyer.net/units/research>

45th Division: <https://45thdivisionmuseum.com/index.php/history/history-of-the-45th-infantry/>